

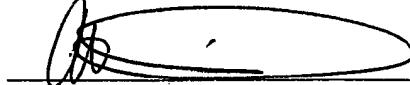


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 22, 2004.


Alex Martinez

Applicant : Masayuki Kuwabara
Application No. : 10/067,572
Filed : February 4, 2002
Title : PATTERN INSPECTION METHOD AND INSPECTION APPARATUS

Grp./Div. : 2623
Examiner : Au, Amelia Megan

Docket No. : 47779/DBP/A400

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Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND CERTIFICATION UNDER § 1.97(e)(1)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
January 22, 2004

Commissioner:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and in accordance with the provisions in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §§ 609 and 707.05(b), enclosed is FORM PTO\SB\08A\B with a listing of references that are known to applicant. Copies of each of the listed references are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that these references be considered in the examination of this application and identified on the list of references cited on the patent issuing on this application. Applicant also requests that an initialed copy of said FORM PTO\SB\08A\B be entered in the application file and returned to applicant with the next communication from the Office in accordance with MPEP § 609.

Applicant's undersigned attorney hereby certifies, in accordance 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in

Application No. 10/067,572

any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,

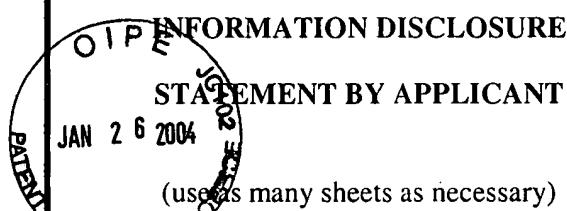
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By D. Bruce Prout
D. Bruce Prout
Reg. No. 20,958
626/795-9900

DBP/aam

Enclosures: PTO\SB\08A\B w/references

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Attorney Docket Number	47779/DBP/A400
Application Number	10/067,572
Filing Date	February 4, 2002
Applicant(s)	Masayuki Kuwabara
Group Art Unit	2621
Examiner Name	N/A

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number - Kind Code ² (If Known)	PUBLICATION DATE MM-DD-YYYY	NAME OF PATENTEE
		6,347,150 B1	02-12-2002	Hiroi, et al.
		2002/0181757 A1	12-05-2002	Takeuchi
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (If Known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶ (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)
		JP 10-89931	04-10-1998		Corresponding U.S. 6,347,150 above
		JP 2000-172843	06-23-2000		Corresponding U.S. 2002/0181757 above

OTHER DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
		Corresponding Korean Application Office Action, dated 12-11-2003

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EXAMINER SIGNATURE	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.pto.gov or MPEP 901.4. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.	

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